

Engaging Yemeni Youth Via Online English Language Learning



Project Title	Engaging Yemeni Youth Via Online English Language Learning
Project Summary	Giving hope and direction to young Yemenis is needed now more than ever, as Yemen copes daily with war, isolation, and severe hardships. A Virtual Intern would build bridges of friendship, while introducing enterprising Yemeni high school students to American English, education, and online tools.
Country	Yemen
Country/Region of Focus	Yemen

Project Description

Yemen's ongoing civil war and economic devastation have severely hampered the ability of students and young professionals to obtain quality English education, or to even develop contacts with American and international peers and modern institutions. A Virtual Intern, preferably one studying for a degree in or related to TESOL or English Linguistics, would coordinate from September to May with the lead teacher or director of the U.S. government-funded, AMIDEAST-administered English After School Program (EASP) based in Aden, Yemen. He or she would deliver weekly live language practice via Skype to students enrolled in EASP classes, thereby complementing the English curriculum already in place, and allowing young Yemeni women and men to engage directly with a native English speaker approximately their age. Currently, the EASP program offers Skype speakers once per month. The Virtual Intern, in coordination with the AMIDEAST program director, could arrange to offer sessions more often, and more tied to youth interests. Depending on the workload, and at the program director's convenience, the Virtual Intern could work with all or some (groups of 4-5) of the students every week. The Virtual Intern would be responsible for lesson planning, based on the weekly or monthly themes covered in the already existing program, to supplement practice on the grammar or vocabulary topics offered/scheduled. In advance of each session (a week, or a few days, as the lead teacher specifies), the Virtual Intern would send reading and/or viewing materials available online, as well as a set of conversation questions or topics that will be discussed during the Skype call, so that students may prepare in advance. During the conversations, which could be 30-40 minutes, as time and technology allows, the Virtual Intern would engage the group of students in conversation based on the theme s/he selected for that week.

Required Skills or Interests

Skill(s)

Cultural diplomacy

Editing and proofreading

Educational design

Additional Information

A basic understanding of English as a Foreign Language (EFL) pedagogy and evaluation methods would be useful, as well as previous travel to the Middle East and/or experience with native Arabic speakers.

Language Requirements

None